

KARO-ECHO Board Meeting

10/2/19

El Cerrito Natural Grocery Annex

Present:

Hal, kk6ndf

Don, ni6a

Natalie, km6ucb

Howdy, ke6bee

Larry, kk6gio

Equipment

GoKart - Natalie is following up with Davis re: whether he's willing to consider storage.

[Update 10/5: He's willing to discuss. **ACTION ITEM:** Don will contact and visit.

El Cerrito Clubhouse Antennas - Howdy followed up with Public Works on the proposed installation adding external dual band antennas to El Cerrito clubhouses and made some progress. Howdy made a strategic decision to focus on getting the existing 2 antennas installed prior to the SET, given how soon it's coming up, and has not yet mentioned the other four. Park & Rec clubhouse installations. Public Works is scheduled to do the installation. Howdy navigated through several layers of hierarchy, finally getting referred from Public Works to Bill Driscoll, who manages the people who actually do the work. Bill referred Howdy to one of his people, so there's progress. Howdy will follow up with them on the schedule [Update Howdy will meet with Public Works and Mike (KM6CXI) CERT Area Coordinator for EC9, on 10-08-19 at Tassajara Park Clubhouse]. **ACTION ITEM:** Ongoing project to include Harding Clubhouse

Light Up the Bay & SET - The KARO-ECHO SET is scheduled for October 26, while Light up the Bay (LUTB) will be held on November 16th. We are interested in both events, but KARO-ECHO's participation in LUTB is still unresolved.

Don pointed out that his goal is to have more trained operators, but that the purpose of the county drill is more bureaucratic (proof of concept) that CERT operators in the field can pass on "situational awareness" to CERT AREA Communications hubs (ICPs) via FRS/GMRS. The Communications HUBS will then triage the messages and send them to the city EOC. The City EOC will then further filter the messages as to clarity, relevance, brevity, and

accuracy, and then send them to County OES in Martinez. Don's point is that KARO-ECHO needs to interact with our own CERT groups (inter-area) for mutual aid within Kensington and El Cerrito which is not part of the LUTB exercise. The overall problem is that El Cerrito is one of the very few local cities without an active/operational CERT group.

Don sees an opportunity to get EC CERT to participate with us in handling messages. Ten ICPs would be great, and would help educate area coordinators in the use of ham radio. We want to get people enthused about messages from ICP to ICP. However, this is not LUTB's focus. .

Howdy has accepted being the coordinator for the KARO-ECHO October 26 SET, and has agreed to be Net Control for LUTB. Regarding message preparation, he'll have enough work for the October SET, and won't be able to do it again for LUTB.

We need someone to run the LUTB exercise from KARO-ECHO if EC CERT decides to participate. **Action Item: Hal will work with Chris Hilliard to obtain CERT neighborhood participation.** This is not yet a done deal..

Agenda item for the next meeting: We should call for someone to both participate in and help do messaging and recruit for the various roles for the OCT 26 KARO-ECHO SET and perhaps for the LUTB exercise should KARO-ECHO decide that it would be useful to participate. [Update: After attending the LUTB meeting on Oct 3, Hal is fired up about making the November LUTB SET happen. If so, someone other than Howdy will have to take the lead to plan and execute it.]

Grupalo and Hilliard have told Hal that they intend to participate in LUTB; but to what extent is not yet established. Hal will handle Kensington, and Hilliard will handle El Cerrito for the LUTB exercise. They're getting ready to talk to people about participating in both exercises. The KARO-ECHO SET will be focusing on mutual aid between CERT ICPS, net operation, message center operation, and message handling.

For the October 26 SET, Chief Janes has given us access to the EOC. Messages will be sent from the neighborhoods to the ICP hubs to other CERT ICP hubs for mutual aid and also to the EOC; but in November, 16 LUTB exercise all the communications will go from CERT ICP to city EOC, and then on to county OES.

Hilliard said he and six CERT people might be able to participate, which Don feels isn't enough for either SET or LUTB. Hilliard told Hal that he is recruiting four more CERT area coordinators who are trained, but have not yet done anything. Hal is preparing instructions for them. **ACTION ITEM.**

Tomorrow (10/3) is a LUTB meeting in San Ramon at 8:00. Hal will take Don. LUTB has a Google Group with files, etc.

Don is currently the LUTB contact, and will introduce Hal to those folks. A positive outcome is that the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guys are onboard for including CERT, if we can fire up El Cerrito CERT to participate..

At a LUTB meeting last month, Don mentioned that he could make up messages and send them from the city EOC to County OES..

Don: "If we have 10 ACs generating 3 messages each, that's 30 messages, requiring two radios receiving messages at the EOC, plus another radio to send out messages to the county. There's only one radio at the county. Hence a traffic jam is assured, unless we create a plan B."

County wants situational awareness reports, and needs to tell us what format they want. (TBD).

Hal mentioned that we need someone from the city to sit with us in the EOC to look at what gets sent to the County. We want the city to start learning this. Chief Janes has tentatively accepted.

Acquisition of EOC access cards for KE emcomm operators (need commits)

Cards have been issued to Jamuel, Marlene, Hal, Don, and Marian. Annette also has an older generation CERT ID card.

We need hams in EC who live close to the EOC and may be able to get there in an emergency. **Talk to people at the October membership meeting.** Rob, Howdy, etc.

We need a tour for everyone with ID cards, and perhaps get another 5-10 hams trained to operate the radios at the EOC and carded.

Howdy suggests that we get the Go Kart down to the EOC parking lot in an emergency to get started there if the EOC is not accessible..

Hal will ask Kevin for

2x access to the EOC for training

Second set of cards for additional volunteers

Determination of who will be the first responder/decisionmaker sitting with hams at the EOC [**ACTION ITEM**]

Outreach

List of hams in each CERT area

Hal has found 11 in his area

Kensington 5 and 6 know their local hams.

Howdy says that the addresses have already been mapped

ACs should deal with maps & data **ACTION ITEM:** Hal will see to it that all CERT ACs receive the list (or maps).

List of CERT survey responders interested in radio

On the National Night Out survey, one of the questions was “Are you interested in learning about radio communication for disasters?” (paraphrased). Hal received the list of 107 people who said they are interested. Hal is trying to find out what contact information is available, and has requested name, address, and email. Emails (at least) should be available. **ACTION ITEM**

Follow up to letter to all EC/K licensed hams

No survey results yet. It may not have gone out until very recently. [Update: 2 new joins via the web Join Us app. Don will add them to the KARO-ECHO roster and [HYPERLINK "mailto:members@karo.echo.net" \h members@karoecho.net](mailto:members@karo.echo.net) email list.]

Larry reported no snail mail responses yet.

Don said that no further follow up would be needed unless specific questions are asked, as the mailing was complete including KARO-ECHO’s web address and meeting details.

Funding

Currently, passing the hat at meetings is the primary method of collecting funds along with yearly dues.

Hal requested that Larry prepare a treasurer’s report including income and expenditures. [Subsequently, Larry has sent his report to the executive board].

Natalie, KM6UCF, Secretary